

I AM THE RESURRECTION

Edited by
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Text from St John 11.25,26

THOMAS TOMKINS
(1527 - 1656)

Tomkins was born in St David's in Pembrokeshire. His father was also a musician, a vicar choral of the cathedral of St Davids and organist there; his three half-brothers were musicians as well, but none attained the fame of Thomas. In 1596 he was appointed as a choral instructor at Worcester Cathedral. Most likely he studied with William Byrd for a time in London, for he dedicated a madrigal to him as his teacher. While in London he probably met Thomas Morley. Morley included one of Tomkins' madrigals in his important collection *The Triumphs of Oriana* in 1601.

He became a Gentleman Ordinary of the Chapel Royal sometime before 1620, and senior organist there in 1625. He appears to have withdrawn from the post in about 1628. He was employed by Worcester Cathedral for the next two decades, but when the city was captured by parliamentary forces in 1646, during the Civil War, he lost his job, though he was allowed to continue living near the cathedral. Music, to the victorious side, was something to be abolished in all churches (with the exception of the singing of metrical psalms); the Worcester Cathedral organ (which Tomkins had commissioned in 1614) was destroyed and the choir disbanded. Tomkins moved in with his son, and lived with him until his death in 1656.

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

pars organica

I am the re-sur-rec-ti-on and the

These words spoken by Christ and recorded by St John are the seventh of the eight great I AM statements of this Evangel. They form part of the Funeral Sentences in the 1549 Book of Common Prayer. In them the Christian affirms his belief in the General Resurrection at the Last Day.

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life, saith the Lord: he that be - lie - veth in me, yea,
 life, saith the Lord: he that be - lie - veth in me,
 life, saith the Lord: he that be - lie - veth in me,
 life, saith the Lord: he that be - lie - veth in me,

5

9

though he were dead, yet shall he live: and who - so - ev - er li - veth
 yea, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and who - so - ev - er li - veth
 yea, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and who - so - ev - er li - veth
 yea, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and who - so - ev - er li - veth

9

14

and be - lie - veth in me shall not die for ev - - - er.

and be - lie - veth in me shall not die for ev - er.

and be - lie - veth in me shall not die for ev - er.

and be - lie - veth in me shall not die for ev - - - er.

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